(d) The toll collection by the concessionaire is to continue upto 18th April, 2033 as per the Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) Agreement. Thereafter, toll is to be collected by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in perpetuity.

Repair of roads after rains, floods and landslides

1517. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that after monsoon rains, floods and landslides there is urgent need for repair of State-highways and roads to National Highways but States are sitting on the funds meant for roads upkeep;

(b) whether Government is also aware that so far only 33 per cent of the amount given for upgrading roads of States as well as National Highways has been utilised;

(c) if so, the States which have poor spending record;

(d) whether Government is considering to take appropriate action against those erring States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of the National Highways in the country. State-highways and roads leading to National Highways are the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

(b) During the current financial year 2007-08, an expenditure of Rs. 1776.58 crore has been incurred against an allocation of Rs. 2168.64 crore up to the end of February, 2008 for the development of National Highways in the country, which is about 82% of the allocation.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Bridge across river Tapi

1518. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of construction of additional two-lane bridge across river Tapi near Surat has not been completed even within extended time limit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Gujarat and local organisations have represented frequently to NHAI regarding slow progress of work; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government and the time fixed for the completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Slow progress was due to inadequate mobilization of plant and machinery, material, labour etc. at site by the contractor.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The contract of the contractor who was executing this work has been terminated and thereafter the balance work has been awarded to the Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) Concessionaire of the ongoing six laning project on Bharuch-Surat Section of NH-8. The work is in progress and targeted for completion by July, 2009.

Upgradation of Haridwar-Rishikesh road

1519. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the condition of the road between Haridwar and Rishikesh in Uttarakhand;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware that lakhs of pilgrims and tourists travel on this road; and

(c) the plan to upgrade this road including the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The National Highway between Haridwar and Rishikesh in Uttarakhand is in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Haridwar to Nepali Farm section of the National Highway has been identified for 4 laning as part of Haridwar to Dehradun section under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis. Work for updation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress and after clearance from Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC), 4 laning work is targeted to be awarded by December, 2008. The work of paved shoulder is in progress in 7.4 km. length between Nepali Farm to Rishikesh and targeted to be completed by June, 2008. Remaining 1.60 km length is proposed for widening with paved shoulder in next Annual Plan 2008-09.

Vessels Traffic System

1520. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any project to establish Vessels Traffic System in Gulf of Kutch to regulate the shipping traffic;

(b) the status of establishment of VTMS for the Gulf of Kutch;

(c) to whom the project has been awarded;

(d) the time overrun that has taken place in the project;

(e) the reasons for the dealy; and

(f) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.